A B S T R A C T

Attribute consistency works on the comparison of a reference value against the online value of the attributes, which are retrieved from the corresponding system. In order to know which attributes need to be considered for consistency, a list of relevant attributes of each entity type in each application is stored together with the reference value of the entity. This attribute list is used by the consistency service. Therefore several attribute values of one entity in one system can be included in a combined "hash" value. At start-up or in the engineering phase, this reference value is computed out of the defined attribute list. At the time of a consistency check, the values of the attributes are read and a "hash" value is calculated with the same algorithm as the reference value. If those two values differ, an inconsistency occurred.

The inventive method allows validating consistency of attributes of an entity in one of the participating applications. Any inconsistency can be propagated to all other participating applications which then may trigger functionality accordingly.

(Fig. 1)